



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
*Harold Runnels Building*  
*1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110*  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110*  
*Telephone (505) 827-2855*  
*Fax (505) 827-2836*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Comm. Dir.  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

## **Environment Department Requests Public Comment on Draft Air Permit for Helena Chemical Mesquite Facility**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has released for public comment a draft Air Quality permit for Helena Chemical Company's fertilizer plant in Mesquite, New Mexico. This draft permit includes conditions to limit air pollution emissions from the plant. These include limits on Helena's hours of operation, maximum hourly and yearly capacity limits, as well as specific requirements for monitoring, record keeping, haul road maintenance and air pollution controls for emissions from the handling of materials. The Helena facility is used as a retail agricultural chemical distribution center for Dona Ana County farmers.

NMED is inviting the public to submit written comments on the draft permit during the comment period. NMED has also scheduled a public hearing to take formal testimony on the issuance of a permit. The hearing will be held on the following date in the following location:

**Tuesday, September 27, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall, 125 West Mesquite, Mesquite NM, Time: TBD**

Written comments will be accepted until the completion of the public hearing. NMED will not issue a final air quality permit until considering all written comments received from the public and testimony presented at the public hearing.

The draft permit may be reviewed at the NMED Air Quality Bureau in Santa Fe or at the NMED Field Office at 1170 N. Solano in Las Cruces. A draft will also be available in Mesquite at the Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association. To receive a copy of the permit, please contact Mike Schneider with NMED's Air Quality Bureau at (505) 955-8000.

Helena Chemical, based in Collierville, Tennessee, has owned the facility in Mesquite since 1989.

Environmental concerns at the Helena plant were first brought to NMED's attention by complaints from the public as well as by Senator Cynthia Nava, Representative Joseph Cervantes and County Commissioner Oscar Butler.

For additional information, please contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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